

Proposed amendments to the constitution.

V "y/^> "'/ ^"c. y'f-e^-^^ df^^r;^ /f^r-t-i f PROPOSED AME^DME:f^TS TO THE CONSTITUTION. held
IQ r>Ilegliany city, January 37, for the i domestic tranquility, provide for the common above object,
met in Willard's Hotel, Tuesday ' defence, promote the general welfare, and se- evening, February
9, namely; Professor J. II. I cure the inalienable rights andjthe blessings Mcllvaine, D. D., Frinceton,
N. J.; Professor j of(life2liberty{ and the pursuit of happiness, J. T. Pressley, D. D., Penna.; Rev. John
Doug- ; to ourselves, ouTposterity, and all the people, The following delegates from the convention
i more perfect union, establish justice, insure in our fundamental and organic laiv,- in order that
we may consistently implore His merciful interposition in our behalf, to give victory to our national
arms, and success to the national cause; to establish the unity of the nation and the authority of
the Government, now assaulted and shattered by a horrible rebellion.fci We ask for no union of
Church and 8tate that is a thing which we utterly repudiate; we ask for nothing inconsistent witli
the largest religious liberty)0r the rights of conscience in any man. We represent no sectarian or
denominational object, but one in whicli all who bear the Christian name, and all who have any
regard lor the Chi'istian reliiriwu, can cordially agree; and one to secure which we are persuaded that
any lawful and wise movement would call forth an overwhelming public sentiment in its support.
Wc, therefore, do earnestly hope that you, our beloved Chief Magistrate, will not be in- dilferent to
oui- prayer. For, by what you have already done in this cause, and by your integ- rity, firmness, and
excellent wisdom, (divinely guided as we believe it has been, and pray that it may ever continue
to be.) under the terrible responsibilities laid upon you in this tlie darkS> hour of our country's
peril aud rebuke, you have won the coiiQdeuce and affection of tlie Chris- tian jjeople of this land,
beyoiia all your prede- cessors, save mily the Father of his Country. Knou iu'j;., thci , tlie respect and
deference with which your sage counsels are listened to by the whole people, and dei niing the
present time and occasion most opportune, wearepeisuaded that if you will give this movement
your favor and support, it will be successful; and thus j-ou will place yourself in the hearts of the
present and of all future generations as one of the greatest benefactors of your country. For, liaving
inaugurated those measures which aim to riaht, so far as that is possible, our great national wrong
committed against man, you will have wielded that vast influence with which you have been clotheu
by Divine Provi- dence and by the voice of the people to right, so far as that can be done, th^ %^i^ it
wn*ong which we as a nation have committed against God in leaving Him out of our political system.
The President replied; GE>iTi.EMfN: Tlie general aspect of your movement I cordially approve. In
regard to jjarticulars I must ask time to deliberate. lass, D. D., Penna.; Rev. D. C. Page, D. D, Penna ;
Rev. H. H. George, Ohio; Dr. Sterritt, Penna.; John Alexander, E?q., Ohio; Rev. J. S. T. Milligan, Mich.;

Rev. R. A. Brown, Penna., and Rev. A. M. Milligan, Penna. The Rev. Dr. Gurley. Rev. Channing, D. D., J. J. Marks, D. D., Rev. B. F. Morris, Rev. R. D. Johnson and Rev. N. R. Crow, of this District, met with the delegation, heard the address prepared by Dr. McIlvaine, the chairman of the committee, and gave it their hearty sanction; most of them signed the address and waited on the President with the delegation. Revs. S. O. Wylie and J. B. W. Doane, with Wm. Brown, Esq., delegates from the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian church to the President, also, by invitation signed the address and acted with the delegation. Through the aid of Senator Sherman, of Ohio, an arrangement was made with the President for an interview on Wednesday, the 1st p. m., when the delegation was introduced to the President by Dr. Gurley, and the chairman made the following address: Mr. President: The object for which we have taken the liberty of trespassing a moment upon your precious time can be explained in very few words. We are the representatives of a mass convention of Christian people, without distinction of sect or denomination, which was held in Allegheny city, on the 27th and 28th of January last; and we are instructed to lay before your Excellency the action of that convention. This action, in two or three brief resolutions, we now respectfully ask your permission to read: Resolved, First, That we deem it a matter of paramount importance to the life and prosperity and permanency of our nation that the Constitution be so amended as fully to express the Christian national character. Resolved, Second, That we are encouraged by the successful labors of the friends of this movement to persevere, in the hope that, with the blessing of God, it will speedily result in the consummation of its great object. Resolved, Third, That the late proclamation of his Excellency the President of the United States, recommending the observance of days suggested by the Senate, for the purpose of confessing our national sins, which have provoked the divine displeasure, and of imploring forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and also days of national thanksgiving for the purpose of making grateful acknowledgements of God's mercies; we have pleasing evidence that God is graciously inclining the hearts of those who are in authority over us to recognize His hand clearly in national affairs, and to cherish a sense of our dependence as a nation upon Him. Resolved, Fourth, That the following memorial and petition be circulated throughout the United States for signatures: To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled: We, citizens of the United States, respectfully petition your honorable bodies to adopt and ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." And we further petition that such changes, with respect to the oath of office, slavery, and other matters, as may be necessary to give effect to these amendments of the preamble, may be introduced into the body of the Constitution. And we, your humble petitioners, will ever pray, &c., &c. Resolved, Fifth, That a committee be appointed to lay this memorial before Congress and before the President, with the request that he would make it the subject of a special message to the National Legislature. We are encouraged, Mr. President, to hope that you will give the great object for which we pray your cordial and powerful support, because you have already shown by many significant acts of your administration, that the principle on which it rests is dear to your heart. This principle is our national responsibility to God,

which you have expressly and repeatedly re(%nized. We remember that wheu, under one of your precedcccessors, an anti-Christidn powers had refused to treat wi'h the United States on the ground that we were a Christian nation, the objection was removed by the au- thoritative statement that we, as a nation, liad no religion; also,that several of your predeces- sors refused, when earnestly importuned, to appoint days of national fasting and thanlvs- giving for the same reason, whilst you, sir, within the space of a single year, have thrice, by solemn proclamation, called us either to national fasting, humiliation and prayer, for our many and grievous sins, especially our sin of forgetting God, or to national thanksgiving for His unspeakable mercies. ^ You, moreover, as no other of our chief magistrate ever did, have soluninly reminded us of the redeeming grace of our blessed Saviour, and of the authority of the Holy Scriptures over us as a people.r^ By such acts as these you have awakened a hope in the Christian people of this land that you represent them in feeliug the want of a distinct and plain recognition of the divine authority in the Con- stitution of the United states. For wo hold itt^he work of amending the Constitution should mine of national fasting, humiliation, and prayer, aS |jr most certain truth, that nations, as such, and"not be done hastily. I will carefully exa not individuals alone, are the subjects of God's moral government, are responsible to Him, and by Him are graciously rewarded for their obe- dience, orjustlypunishedfor their disobedience of His divine laws. We believe also that our civil aad religious liberties, our free institutions, and all our national prosperity, power and glory,aiemercies and blessinas derived from God to us through the channel of the Christian religion.n Not- withstanding either from inadvertency, or fol- ! lowing some Godless theory of civil govern- ; ment, w'e have omitted even the mention of l His blessed name in the most siguiUcant and i highest act of the nation. ' : ' We believe that in thus leaving God out of your paper in order more fully to comprehend its conients than is prssible from merely hear- ing it^9t, and will take succli action upon it as my responsibility to 'Af Maker and r'i' country demands. The form of petition agreed upon by the Con- vention aud bearing tl-ie names of the commit- tee was prepared for the two Houses of Con- gress, similar petitions were ordered to be circulated throughout the various portions of tlio country for the signaturi-s of the people; and all classes of the community, male aud female, who love our country and desire to have it become that *' blessed nation whose God is the Lord," are earnestly requested to sign and circulate these petitions, copying the form again-t Him, have brought UDon ourselves and such measures as may be necessary for amend- cniidren His just displeasure, opened the flood- the National Constitution, so that it may "Agates of that political corruption which is the our political system we have grievously sinned ! prepared by the Convention on two sheets, the one for the Senate and the other for the House read, in substance, as follows: ' We, the people of the United States, hum- bly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations, and His revealed Will as the su- mediatCjand given occasion to that prodigious development of the spirit of opprcisiou and injury to thenegro race, which is the immediate source of our present calamities and sorrows. We believe, therefore, that it is our first duty to repent of this

and all our national sins, and of Representatives, and signing the same names to both, and when all the names possible are obtained, transmit the one for the Senate to the Hon. Charles Sumner, and the one for the House to the Hon. Judge Kelley, Washington, D. C. Editors to whom this circular is sent are requested to give it an insertion in their papers. prime law of the land, in order to constitute a return to our obligations as a Christian people; and all papers throughout the country are requested to give it a place, by acknowledging the true God as our God! requested to copy. -*-C^' ^ |- ^-'^^L.^ cl,--^>- / tJ 9-'?-'^